

ABATTOIRS.—TREATMENT OF THE CALF.—“No animal suffers so much as the calf,” is a thing often said, and sometimes with a little concern as if it were a proper and necessary thing that they should suffer cruelties to metamorphose their flesh, as human food, from what God and nature intended. The “white” veal which persons, either ignorantly, or if knowingly, with a very discreditable want of feeling, crave, is not the natural colour, any more than white beef would be that of the ox. Smollett alludes to the cruel and unwholesome practices in his time; and a French traveller, about 1690, mentions that the English veal has not the “beautiful red” colour of the French. That red veal is the flesh of the calf in its proper state: the white is an artificial, drained, flaccid thing, the offspring of cruelty alone. Any candid medical man would in an instant decide on the difference of wholesomeness between the two. The calf is bled several times before its death to a cruel degree, often till it faints; very frequently, during the night, a plug being put in, and taken out again when the operation is repeated,—often also with the head downward, which must cause horrible pain; and the process of “killing” is wilfully lingering, perhaps an hour and a half sometimes, and very pitiable and abhorrent. The writer has seen it—let any one else do the same, and he will protest against veal, as now killed, for the rest of his life. And, oh! that some may exist in the present generation destined to remove this foul blot from English humanity! The “sworn tormentors” of a former day are gone—let the English “calf-torturer” go in this.—**EULALIA.**

THE FIRE IN LAMBETH.—The loss caused by this fearful disaster is very large, and it is but partially covered by insurance. Mr. Myers' loss is greatly increased by the total destruction of a large quantity of carved stone-work for ecclesiastical buildings in progress. Of all his workmen not one has saved a tool. At the factory of Messrs. Nickels, india-rubber web manufacturers, whose loss will be very great, a large body of young women have been thrown out of work. A subscription has been set on foot for their relief, and to assist the workmen to obtain fresh tools. A statement has reached us, to the effect that if Mr. Braidwood had listened to the urgent entreaties of Messrs. Nickels, and brought water to bear on a certain portion of their premises, property to a large amount might have been saved.

EXEMPTION OF DWELLINGS OF POOR FROM LOCAL TAXATION.—Mr. P. Scrope, M.P., has moved for leave to bring in his Bill on this subject; but meeting with strong opposition on the ground that it would aggravate the evil benevolently intended to be remedied, and increase rents, to the landlord's profit, in place of diminishing them, the motion was withdrawn.

IRON PERMANENT WAY.—A series of experiments has been carried out by Mr. P. W. Barlow, C.E., from which he has been led to recommend the substitution of cast-iron in place of wood in laying the substructure of permanent way, as the only means of preventing those irregularities of surface which cause blows to be given by the engine that are not only annoying to passengers, but further and more and more rapidly destructive to the way and to the carriages, as well as wasteful of the locomotive power and mechanism. The present practice he regards as temporary way much more than permanent. Mr. Barlow finds it to be a mistake, that a partially soft elastic material such as wood is requisite to smooth and easy motion: the more rigid, and level, and polished, the surface, the easier has he found the traction, and the better suited at least to railway transit. Cast-iron sleepers in two halves, with half chairs fitting the rail, and bolted together so as to avoid the use of the key, is that construction of substructure to which experiment has led him to yield the preference, from the facility with which it is laid, from the perfect joint which it gives, and the security from breakage in the event of getting off the line. The point of the meeting of the plates is situated between the chairs, so that the bolts act under a spring which destroys all liability of loosening, to which he has not found any tendency.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 4th March for the erection of a Baptist Chapel, with vestry, school-rooms, and offices, at Nottingham, by a date not specified, for the erection of a dwelling-house and a set of farm offices in Leicestershire, and a set of farm offices at Aston, in Derbyshire; by 2nd March, for the erection of the Lincoln and Lincolnshire Penitent Females' Home at Lincoln; and by 26th, for the erection of a new workhouse at Birmingham.

THE VAPOURS OF DISEASE AND DEATH AT LAMBETH.—Pray, Sir, are any steps being taken towards the removal of all those abominable nuisances in that seat of poison, Princess-street, Lambeth, consisting of bone-boilers, potteries, starch-malters, and several of a like abominable nature? or are they to continue to poison and annoy a whole community through next summer, and carry off their thousands of victims again? A person cannot now pass within a quarter of a mile, without feeling a sensation of sickness, and almost vomiting, so intolerable is it; and when the wind is southerly (I pity the poor archbishop), the poisonous vapours are carried, not only through Lambeth, but also into the very heart of the metropolis. If the whole of these wretched hovels and filthy factories were swept away altogether from the south side of Lambeth Church to Vauxhall, and again, from the waterside back to the railway arches, it would be a downright boon to the parish; and in their places, there should be a handsome river frontage, consisting of a terrace, with carriage-way next the water, and streets at certain distances, to turn out of this terrace, towards the railway arches; this would soon become a valuable property, and would also be an ornament to the neighbourhood both by land and by water.—**R. M.**

THE NORMAL COLLEGE FOR WALES.—At the annual meeting of the members of the above institution, held in Swansea on the 2nd ult., it was resolved to expend less money upon the erection of a building than had been previously contemplated. According to *Felix Farley's Journal*, the design by Messrs. Fuller and Gingell has therefore been laid aside, and the design of Mr. William Richards, architect, of Swansea, approved of. It contains accommodation for forty students, together with a residence for the master, and all necessary offices. Mr. Joseph Richards has undertaken to erect the building within the sum specified in the resolution, viz., 1,700l.

DRAWING SCHOOLS FOR ARTIZANS, CAMDEN-TOWN.—An evening drawing school for artizans has been proposed to be opened in Camden-town, the Government School of Design not being available to this class from its locality and fixed course of study. It is considered by the promoters of the present scheme that England greatly requires, at the present moment, tasteful workmen, the more especially as she has thrown the gauntlet to foreign countries which hold an advantage in this respect. A number of manufacturers and others have therefore proposed the means alluded to, to obviate in some measure this serious disadvantage, and a meeting was to be held on Thursday evening, to devise means to carry out this proposition,—too late for us to do more in our present number than mention the intention, and express our good wishes in favour of it.

MORTAR FOR ARCHES.—Sir: Now is it architects still use cement for arches, when we have seen so many fall of late in consequence? Lime is far superior, as it does not set quick like cement, but gradually giving the whole of the work its due time to settle. Cement remixed is worthless; lime mortar not.—**A CLERK OF WORKS OF FORTY-TWO YEARS' EXPERIENCE.**

FULHAM UNION WORKHOUSE.—It will be remembered that designs for this union house were obtained in competition, and that on the selection of a plan by the guardians unaided, some articles appeared in our pages, pointing out the error they had fallen into, and the injustice committed. If the guardians had listened to us, they would have saved themselves much mortification, and the parish a large sum of money. The mess they are now in surpasses belief. We shall probably give particulars as a warning to other boards.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES AT 10l. A-PIECE.—A correspondent of the *Chelmsford Chronicle*, Mr. Clay, residing at Enville, near Ongar, has offered to allow the public, for one week in the latter end of March, to inspect an inhabited cottage erected at a cost of 10l. Perhaps some of our correspondents may be able to point out how this desideratum of a 10l. cottage is or can be realized.

COMPETITION.—Designs and specifications, &c., are wanted by 20th March, for public baths and washhouses at Greenwich, Kent. Particulars as advertised.

SURVEYORSHIP TO THE SALTERS' COMPANY.—The Court of Assistants of the Salters' Company proceeded on the 7th instant to fill up the vacancy in the office of surveyor to the company, caused by the death of the late Mr. Valentine, when Mr. Garland, of the firm of Garland and Christopher, was unanimously elected.

THE TELEKOPHONON, OR SPEAKING TELEGRAPH. has, during the last twelve months, come into very general use. In several of the largest buildings which have recently been erected in London, Mr. Whishaw's useful invention has been considered a necessary appendage, and is now introduced in the specifications issued from the offices of some of the most eminent architects of the day. Besides the numerous public buildings into which it has been introduced, it is about to be fitted-up throughout the Earl of Ellesmere's splendid mansion, under the direction of Mr. Barry. It is now nearly two years since Mr. Whishaw first applied it in private houses as a most efficient substitute for bells.—*Mining Journal.*

BUILDING FOR THE EXHIBITION OF 1851.—The committee appointed for the matters connected with the intended building consists of,—the Duke of Buccleuch; the Earl of Ellesmere; Messrs. Barry, Cockerell, and Donaldson, architects; and Messrs. Cubitt, Stephenson, and Brunel, engineers. They have already had three meetings.

LARGE BRICKS FOR CHURCHES.—The duty paid on bricks used for ecclesiastical purposes is returned; why then should not a much larger brick be made for the erection of churches, which would, I imagine, be productive of increased stability, and a great saving of expense in the laying, less consumption of mortar, &c.? **E. L.**

[Advertisement.]

BIRMINGHAM UNION COMPETITION.

To the Editor of the Builder.

Sir,—In your paper of the 29th September last, you inserted a letter from me respecting the competition for the Birmingham new Workhouse, in which I stated, as I then believed on good authority, that Mr. Edge had, during the first competition, canvassed the guardians in favour of the architects whose design was adopted in the second competition, in which he was one of the three architects appointed to make the selection, and Mr. Edge having, in your paper of the 13th October, contradicted this statement, I have since then caused inquiries to be made by those upon whom I can depend, and I take this opportunity of stating that I now find that I was misled by the information I received at the time I made that statement.

I therefore, Mr. Editor, beg you will allow me, through the medium of your paper, to correct the error I then made, and also to assure Mr. Edge that I regret its publication, and although several months have elapsed since its appearance, I trust, in thus rendering the justice due to Mr. Edge, to show that in adopting the motto I then used I am always really anxious to act in accordance therewith. **“LOVER OF FAIR PLAY.”**

TENDERS

For alterations and additions to be executed for Mr. Hiers, Mount Ephraim, Tonbridge Wells.

Barrett	£1,185
Thorpe and Son	1,100
Martin	1,153
Willmott	1,163
Beech	1,181
James and Henry Thorpe	970

For rebuilding a house and premises, Newington Causeway. Mr. Henry Baker, architect.

Patrick	£1,170
Smith	1,190
Harnden	1,100
Coleman	990
Willson	994
Cooper and Davis (accepted)	980

Quantities furnished by Mr. T. G. Austin.

For rebuilding a house, in the Whitechapel-road for Mr. Humphries.

West	£1,155
Bowling	1,044
M. and G. Curtis	980
Parrell	980

* Report to the Directors of the South-Eastern Railway Company on Permanent Way. By P. W. Barlow, C.E., F.R.S. &c.

* See Vol. VII. p. 225, &c.